MARVEL

159

RATED T+

THOMPSON • NADLER • PERALTA • ABURTOV

CABLE

PLUS:

COUNTDOWN TO EXTERMINATION

X-CABLE

PAST FEARS
CHAPTER 5

PULLED FROM HIS OWN ERA AND RAISED IN A FAR-FLUNG FUTURE, NATHAN SUMMERS HAS TRAVERSED TIME IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HUMAN AND MUTANT ALIKE. HE IS THE LINK BETWEEN THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. HE IS KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, BUT TO MOST HE IS SIMPLY THE MAN CALLED…

CABLE

AFTER REUNITING WITH HIS ESTRANGED DAUGHTER HOPE, CABLE SET OUT TO FIGHT A TECHNO-ORGANIC MONSTER THAT'S BEEN TORMENTING HIM FOR YEARS. DURING THE CONFLICT, THE MONSTER DUG INTO CABLE'S MIND, FORCING HIM TO CONFRONT THEIR LONG AND SORDID HISTORY. FIRST, REVISITING THEIR CONFLICT DURING THE MESSIAH WAR. THEN, BACK TO THE AGE OF THE HELLFIRE HUNT WHERE X-MAN LEARNED CABLE HARBORED A HORRIBLE SECRET ABOUT THE MONSTER. FINALLY, BACK TO CABLE'S EARLY DAYS LEADING X-FORCE WHERE HE FACED THE MONSTER FOR THE FIRST TIME.

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2,000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE.

...I ONCE SAW A GUY WHOSE WHOLE BODY WAS MADE OF ICE!

YEAH? WELL, I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN MAKE THEMSELVES INTO ANYTHING.

THAT'S A LIE AND YOU KNOW IT!

50pf

IF LORD APOCALYPSE'S GUARDS HEAR US...

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DO TO PEOPLE WHO TALK ABOUT *FULL-SCANS**...

THEY MAKE THEM DISAPPEAR.

I HEARD *APOCALYPSE* HIMSELF CUTS THEIR TONGUES OUT.

*FULL-SCAN=MUTANTS.

GUYS, I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT THIS--

YOU SCARED?

LIKE YOU WERE ON THAT CLIFF?

I SAW A FULL-SCAN ONCE.

WAS IT THE GUY WHO GOES *BAMF* AND DISAPPEARS?

NAH, IT WAS AN OLD WOMAN WITH CLAWS IN HER HANDS!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, DAYSPRING?

WELL...*UMM*... MY *DAD* CAN *SHOOT LASERS* OUT OF HIS EYES!

THAT'S THE WORST LIE YET!

YEAH, IF YOUR DAD COULD DO *THAT*, THEN YOU COULD DO IT, TOO!

THAT'S HOW IT WORKS, TIN BRAIN.

IF YOU'RE GONNA LIE, AT LEAST SAY SOMETHING THAT MAKES SENSE.

LIKE YOUR DAD'S ALSO GOT A METAL ARM, BUT HIS SHOOTS MOONBEAMS OR SOMETHIN'!

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT THING, ANYWAY? IT GET CUT OFF?

I...I DON'T KNOW.

WELL, IT LOOKS DUMB.

DUMBER THAN THAT TINY HAT.

NO, MY MOM TELLS ME IT'S WHAT MAKES ME *DIFFERENT.*

HA HA HA

WHERE YOU GOIN'? C'MON, DAYSPRING!
WE DIDN'T MEAN IT.
I'M ALREADY LATE. I GOTTA GET HOME.
AWW, LET HIM GO.
CALM DOWN, *SLYM*. IT'S WHAT KIDS DO.
HE'S LATE AGAIN, *REDD*... AND WHAT IF HE BRINGS HIS LITTLE FRIEND WITH HIM?
WE'VE BEEN AMONG THE SAPIAN CASTE FOR FOUR YEARS NOW. WE CAN'T SHELTER HIM FOREVER. HE NEEDS A NORMAL CHILDHOOD.
NONE OF *THIS* IS NORMAL. WHAT HE NEEDS IS TO TAKE HIS LESSONS SERIOUSLY.

YOU'RE JUST WORRIED HE'LL REPEAT YOUR MISTAKES.

NO. I'M WORRIED IT'LL BE ***WORSE.*** HE'S AN OMEGA-LEVEL MUTANT. THAT VIRUS IS MAKING HIM SEE THINGS, AND IF HE SUDDENLY ACTS ON THESE VISIONS...YOU KNOW HOW EASILY HE COULD KILL SOMEONE?

OR HIMSELF...

THAT'S WHY MOTHER ASKANI BROUGHT US HERE. TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T HURT ANYONE.

WE CAN'T DO THAT WHEN WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.

THIS WOULD BE EASIER IF WE WERE STILL AT THE SCHOOL...WITH XAVIER. BUT WE'RE NOT. WE'RE HERE. AND WE'RE ON OUR OWN.

I'M AN OMEGA-LEVEL, TOO, BY THE WAY. YOU DON'T NEED TO LECTURE ME ABOUT HOW DANGEROUS IT IS.

BUT YOU'RE IN CONTROL. HE'S NOT. IF HE HAS AN EPISODE WHEN HE'S WITH HIS FRIENDS--

APOCALYPSE WON'T FIND HIM.

YOU CAN'T KNOW THAT, EVEN WITH YOUR POWERS. WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. WE HAVE TO--

I ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. I DON'T LIKE IT.

IT'S HARSH, BUT HE'S SUPPOSED TO LEAD THE REBELLION AGAINST APOCALYPSE SOMEDAY. IT'S OUR JOB TO KEEP HIM SAFE.

THEN IT'S SETTLED.

YOU CAN BE THE ONE TO TELL HIM HE'S NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE FRIENDS ANYMORE.

WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

I'VE GOT THIS.

I'M FINE BY MYSELF.

CREEEK

FWOOSH

HUH?

KRAK

WHO'S THERE?!

REDD!

SLYM!

DAYSPRING?

THAT YOU?

I CAME TO SEE IF YOU'RE--

NO!

STAY... AWAY!

HUUURGH!

NATE...

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

METUS!

NO, NO, NO.
OH MY GOD.
HOLD STILL.
I CAN FIX THIS.
STOP... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU'RE... MAKING IT... WORSE!
PLEASE! I'M SORRY. JUST LET ME--
YOU'RE.
HURTING.
ME!
GET BACK!

STOP SHAPE-SHIFTING!

IT'S THE ONLY... THING...THAT LESSENS...THE PAIN.

I'M TRYING TO HELP!

YOU'VE... ALREADY...DONE ENOUGH!

I THOUGHT WE WERE *FRIENDS!*

WE ARE...

NOT ANYMORE WE AREN'T!!!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE SICK? YOU SAID NO SECRETS.

HEEEELP!

REDD! SLYM!

HE'S OVER THERE!

GET OFF MY SON!

DON'T WORRY, WE'RE HERE!

IT'S HIS FAULT! NOT MINE!

NATHAN, I NEED YOU TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

AAEEEIIIII!!

IS IT GONE?

IT'S NOT COMING BACK.

YOU'RE DOING GOOD, HONEY. I NEED YOU TO HELP ME NOW.

LISTEN TO YOUR MOM, NATHAN.

FOCUS YOUR MIND ON SUPPRESSING THE VIRUS.

GHHHRRR.

THAT'S IT. YOU'RE A LOT BETTER AT CONTROLLING IT THAN YOU THINK.

FEEL STRONG ENOUGH TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS FOR ME, BUDDY?

WHAT WAS THAT? WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

IT WAS...*UH...UMMM....* AN ASSASSIN... HE MUST HAVE BEEN SENT BY APOCALYPSE.

ARE YOU SURE?

I...YES. IT CHASED ME THROUGH THE WOODS.

SCOTT, HE'S LYING. THERE'S SOMETHING HE'S NOT TELLING US. BUT I CAN'T GET THROUGH. HE'S...BLOCKING ME.

HE'S NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE.

DON'T WORRY. EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY.

HEEEELP!

BY EN SABAH NUR'S GENES. IT'S A FULL-SCAN!

PLEASE...

ALERT THE GUARDS!

AHHH!

NO...I'M SICK...

GET AWAY FROM ME, GENE TRASH!

MOM!
DAD!
GET THE @#$% OUT OF MY HOUSE!
FATHER, IT'S ME...
IT'S METUS.
YOU'RE A DIRTY FULL-SCAN. YOU'RE NOTHING.
TAKE ONE STEP TOWARD MY FAMILY AND I'LL KILL YOU.
MOMMY, WHAT HAPPENED TO METUS?
SHLINK
AEEIIII!
YOU'RE NO SON OF MINE!

VILE, DISGUSTING *MONSTER!*

GET IT ALIVE, IF YOU CAN! BUT GET IT!

DESTROY IT BEFORE IT DESTROYS US!

HE'S GOING TO THE WOODS!

LET HIM!

LOOK WHAT DAYSPRING DID. HE MADE YOU A BEAST. YOUR FAMILY DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU.

HE TOOK EVERYTHING AWAY...

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

"I...I HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM. FIND HIM.

"WHEREVER HE GOES IN TIME."

"YES. AND DO WHAT HE DID TO ME.

"KEEP HIM FROM THE ONES HE LOVES.

THE PRESENT.

WE'RE TAUGHT TO LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND. TAUGHT THAT IT CAN'T HURT US.

BUT IT CAN IF YOU LET IT. THE PAST IS IRREVOCABLY PART OF US.

AND WE CAN DO NOTHING TO STOP IT FROM CREEPING BACK AT ANY MOMENT.

THE HUMAN PERCEPTION OF TIME FORCES US TO BELIEVE WE ONLY LIVE IN THE PRESENT.

BUT WE EXIST SIMULTANEOUSLY ACROSS OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

WE HAVE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THREE AT ONCE.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...

DAD! ANSWER ME FOR--

HOPE.

PLEASE, HOPE...I NEED... COMPLETE *SILENCE.*

FOCUS ON... SEPARATING...MY VIRUS. HELP ME... EXPEL IT.

ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT DID WE JUST DO?

I ABSORBED HIS VIRUS, THEN *YOU* HELPED ME PURGE IT FROM MY BODY.

I'VE ONLY DONE IT ONCE BEFORE. ALMOST KILLED ME.*

WASN'T SURE I COULD HANDLE IT AGAIN, BUT THIS WAS THE ONLY OPTION LEFT. THAT'S WHY I NEEDED YOU. TO DUPLICATE MY TELEKINESIS AND DOUBLE-TEAM THIS.

*SEE *CABLE #100* (2002).

DID WE DO IT?

YES.

ARE YOU CURED?

NO. I NEVER WILL BE. BUT THIS MUCH I CAN HANDLE.

MY GOD... HE'S JUST A KID.

ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT HE WAS AGING WITH ME.

HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND UNTIL I RUINED HIS LIFE.

I KNOW IT DOESN'T CUT IT, BUT I'M *SORRY*, METUS.

WE HAVE TO MAKE THIS RIGHT.

WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?

BODYSLIDE BY THREE.

X-MANSION, CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK.

OUR RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SENSE OF TIME.

WE GIVE HIM A HOME.

A NEW *FAMILY.*

SEEING HIM, HIS INNOCENCE, I REMEMBER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE YOUNG.

I REMEMBER HOPE WHEN SHE WAS THRUST INTO MY ARMS.

I REMEMBER HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO KNOW THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE THERE.

SO YOU NEVER FEEL ALONE.

THE END.

CABLE

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
OFFICEX@MARVEL.COM

EXTERMINATION #1

NEXT MONTH

CABLE SAFE HOUSE. LOCATION: CLASSIFIED. NOW.

BREET BREET

WARNING. TIMELINE ANOMALY DETECTED.

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DETAILS.

BREACH DETECTED IN NEW YORK CITY.

LONGITUDE: 40.762634. LATITUDE: -73.984912.

BREET BREET

WARNING.

SECOND TIMELINE ANOMALY DETECTED.

ALERT

BREET BREET

WARNING.

MULTIPLE TIMELINE ANOMALIES DETECTED.

IT'S...

...NOT POSSIBLE.

BREET BREET

WARNING. IMMINENT THREAT TO TIMELINE STABILITY.

PROBABILITY OF DETERIORATION: 98.965%.

BREET BREET BREET BREET

EXTERMINATION BEGINS!

THE NEXT BIG X-MEN EVENT ON SALE THIS AUGUST!

ZONE